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Senate

The Senate met at 1 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CRAIG THOMAS, a Senator from the State of Wyoming.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Sovereign Lord, guide our Senators today. Teach them to express in word and deed the spirit of justice. Teach them to discharge their duties that other nations may see our true value and honor our decisions. Teach them to labor with such integrity that this Nation will be one we profess, a land of liberty and justice for all. Teach them to work not only for time but also for eternity. So order their steps with Your wisdom that Your will might be done on Earth. We pray in Your holy Name, Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CRAIG THOMAS led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 22, 2006.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CRAIG THOMAS, a Senator from the State of Wyoming, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CRAIG assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today we will be debating the comprehensive immigration bill. Several Senators will be coming over throughout the day to discuss either pending amendments or amendments to be proposed. At this point we have at least two amendments scheduled for votes beginning at 5:30 today. The first vote will be on the Chambliss amendment relating to wage requirements for agricultural workers. The second vote will be on the Ensign amendment which relates to the use of the National Guard.

Other amendments may be offered today, and we hope to schedule debate and votes on those amendments.

I thank my colleagues for helping us move the bill forward to this point. We will finish the bill this week, and I believe Senators will agree to reasonable debate on amendments and we can finish that bill in relatively short order.

We have other issues to consider this week prior to the recess. We will address a supplemental appropriations conference report when that measure is available for floor action. We also will be considering other conference reports that may be raised this week.

We have several important nominations that are available, or soon will be available, after committee action for the full Senate to consider. The Kavanaugh nomination is on the Executive Calendar and will be voted on this week. Other nominations are in committee and will become available.

We have the nomination, for example, of Dirk Kempthorne, our former

colleague, to be Secretary of the Interior. This week the Hayden nomination may be available from the Intelligence Committee as well.

We have the nominations of Sue Schwab for the USTR and Rob Portman for OMB—a number of nominations.

Needless to say, the days will go quickly, and we will need to work together in a collaborative, collegial way to get our business completed prior to the start of the recess.

Finally, in order to get all of this done, Friday votes are likely if we are to complete this busy agenda.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION AND SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if I could ask the distinguished majority leader a couple of questions, we had a lot of trouble last year and we finally worked something out on the Defense authorization bill. This is such an important bill, and I hope in the planning which is taking place that we will find some time to spend on that most important piece of legislation. I ask the majority leader if we have an idea how the supplemental is coming along? The reason I ask the question is there is no end of questions coming to me and people saying it is really important to get this done before we leave.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, on the Defense authorization, I have talked to both the chairman and ranking member, as I am sure the Democratic leader has, and have asked them to do their very best to address how we can best bring that bill to the floor and have

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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